

THE SUNDAY GLOBE

SUNDAY | JUNE 12, 2011

joplinglobe.com | \$1.75



DEEP ROOTS

Kansas City-area residents, some former Joplinites, offer words of recollection and encouragement. 1D



FACES of the STORM

'No. 1 uncle,' Cardinals fan, gold medalist

Ray Donald 'Tripp' Miller one of 153 storm victims

BY EMILY YOUNKER
eyounger@joplinglobe.com

Tripp Miller will be remembered as a kind, loving man. "He had a very happy, full life with his family," said his mother, Patty Miller.

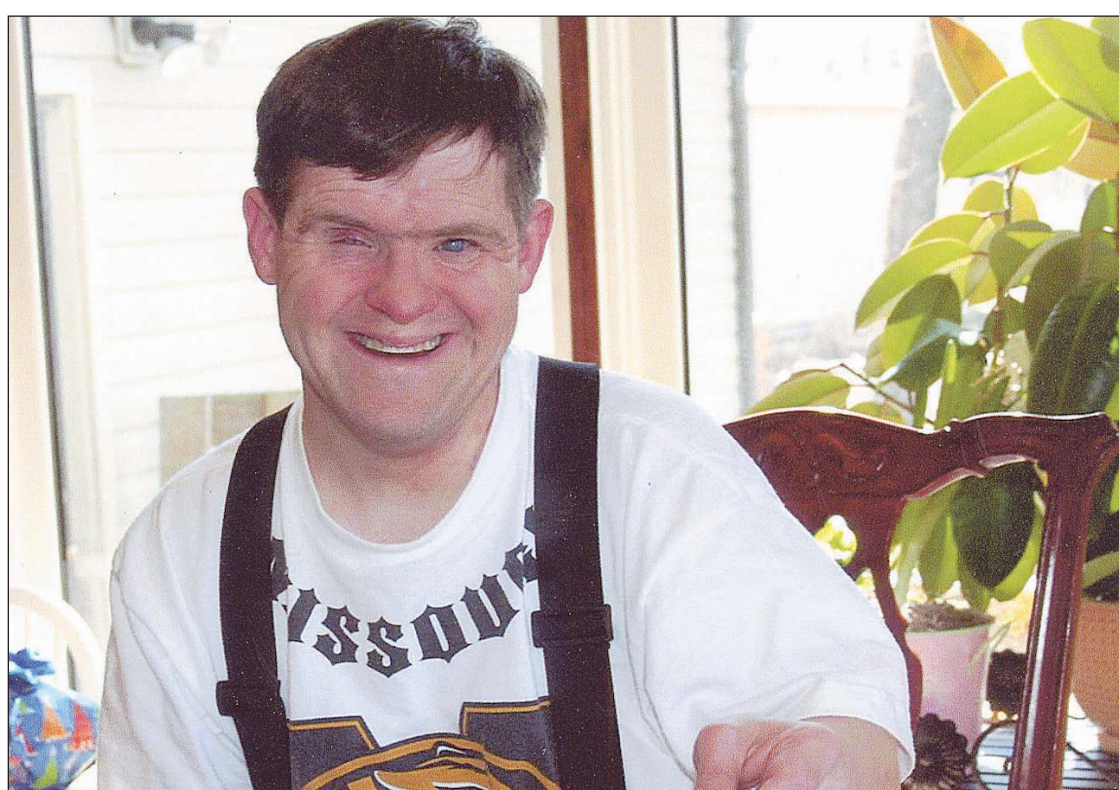
Ray Donald "Tripp" Miller III, 49, of Joplin, was a resident of a home for the developmentally disabled on Iowa Avenue, along with two of his friends, Mark Farmer and Rick Fox. All three died when the May 22 tornado leveled their house, which was close to the destroyed Joplin High School.

He was affectionately called Tripp because he was the "triple," or third, Ray Donald Miller of the family.

He worked for 27 years at Joplin Workshops Inc. and was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church, where he attended services and Sunday school classes each week.

Tripp, who was given the title "No. 1 Uncle" by his five

INDIVIDUAL PROFILES begin on 4A.



Ray Donald "Tripp" Miller III, 49, was one of 153 people killed by the May 22 tornado. SUBMITTED PHOTO

nieces and four nephews, was family oriented, his mother said. As he grew up with his four siblings, he attended all of their school events and was their biggest supporter, she said.

"He truly was the center of all of our kids' lives," she said. "He went to everything they took part in, and they wanted him there."

Tripp also loved his extended family and was set to be a groomsman next month in his

cousin's wedding in Kansas City, she said.

An avid sports fan, Tripp cheered particularly loudly for the St. Louis Cardinals and Missouri Tigers — especially football and basketball — since his siblings attended the University of Missouri.

"He was a big Tigers fan," his mother said. "Tripp was a member of the Missouri Alumni Association and got all the information from it. It was very important to him."

Tripp participated frequently in Special Olympics, having won a gold medal just last year in bowling.

He had also been lucky enough to carry the Olympic torch a few years ago when the Special Olympics were held in Joplin.

He is survived by his parents, three sisters and one brother.

"He was a major part of our lives. He will be greatly, greatly missed," his mother said.



Daughter reunited with father's Bible



Brenda Nichols holds back tears as she reads from her father's Bible. GLOBE | ROGER NOMER

Woman cites kindness of two strangers

BY EMILY YOUNKER
eyounger@joplinglobe.com

Ed Ash's Bible has seen better days.

But the book, nearly ruined in the May 22 storm, is now usable and safely in the hands of Ash's daughter, Brenda Nichols — thanks to the kindness of strangers. "It meant the world to us," she said.

Cyrus Edward Ash, 87, and his wife, Emma, had lived in the Greenbriar nursing home more than three years when the monstrous tornado ripped through Joplin. Ed was one of 153 people who perished in the storm; Emma survived, though she remained hospitalized on Saturday morning.

Ash became a devoted re-born Christian upon entering the nursing home, Nichols said. The Bible he used, a New International Version with his name written several times across the front in per-

manent marker, had likely been a gift from Nichols herself, she said.

"He read that Bible every day," she said. "He said, 'I don't understand a lot of it, but I keep reading.'"

The couple were both at the nursing home when the tornado struck. Ed was found lying on top of the rubble. Because he was in such bad shape, it was likely that he died before he reached the hospital, his daughter said.

SEE BIBLE, 8A

Today's outlook

High **87** Low **68**
Complete local weather report: 3A

Watch for it

MARY BURLINGAME 1, TORNADO 0. Doctors pulled debris out of her back, but May 22 was not the day she was going to die.
Coming Monday

Inside

Calendar	3A	Horoscope	10E
Classifieds	1E	Lotteries	3A
Crossword	6C, 7C	Scramlets	6C
Deaths	6D	Sports	1B
Forum	1D	Weather	3A

Volume 115 | Number 309



TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE from Suzanne

We have received so many questions and requests pertaining to peoples' needs following the tornado. Thanks to the generosity of our vendors we are able to offer many beneficial products for free to those affected by the tornado including relief workers. The products we have available may help people cope with stress, insomnia, grief, low energy, sore muscles, dehydration, respiratory problems, or cardiovascular concerns. Some of the products we would love to give to you if you need them include melatonin, B complex, a multivitamin, a multi-mineral, and fish oil. Helping Joplin heal will be a mission of ours for years to come. We thank God for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely, *Suzanne*

If you would like to ask Suzanne a question related to a healthier lifestyle, please email her at suzanne@suzannes.com

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS 1991-2011

SUZANNE'S NATURAL FOODS
3106 S. CONNECTICUT | JOPLIN MO 64804
417.781.0909